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## ROCOCO ORNAMENTS FOR DECORATIVE PURPOSES.

**R**ALTHOUGH looked down upon by purists as a style without foundation or precedent, if rightly used, Louis XV, or Rococo, may be made an exceedingly pretty and tasteful decoration. Especially is this true in a room of more or less irregularity of outline, allowing as it does, much freedom of treatment, a free play of ideas, and it adjusts itself more readily to such irregularities than would the more staid and regular styles. The Louis XV., or Rococo ornament is very difficult to handle in a thoroughly artistic and characteristic manner, therefore it is greatly derided by the average designer or decorator, and while it may not represent an epoch governed by a high principle of art, it has its usefulness as we have before explained.

It is the common error of most art critics, especially those who strive to dominate commercial art, to belittle the merits of those fashions they fail to understand or appreciate at its proper value. Thus, in matters of decoration, the average public is too prone to submit to the influence of successive fashions, rather than to apply each to the relative position best suiting the existing conditions and requirements.

While there is unquestioned merit in the broad simplicity and artistic severity of the new aesthetic school, there are still many people of taste who like pretty and elaborate detail, and they will still continue to make use of those things which please their own particular sense of "the beautiful."

**C**LEANING MARBLE.—Muriatic acid will take out grease from marble quickly and effectually, but must be used with great care or the marble will be ruined. Remove screw and apply the acid to walls of screw hole, care being taken that none comes in contact with the finished face from the outside. A mixture in boiling water of 50 per cent. Fuller's earth and 25 per cent. each of potash and soft soap laid on spots for two or three hours is also quite effective in grease removal.

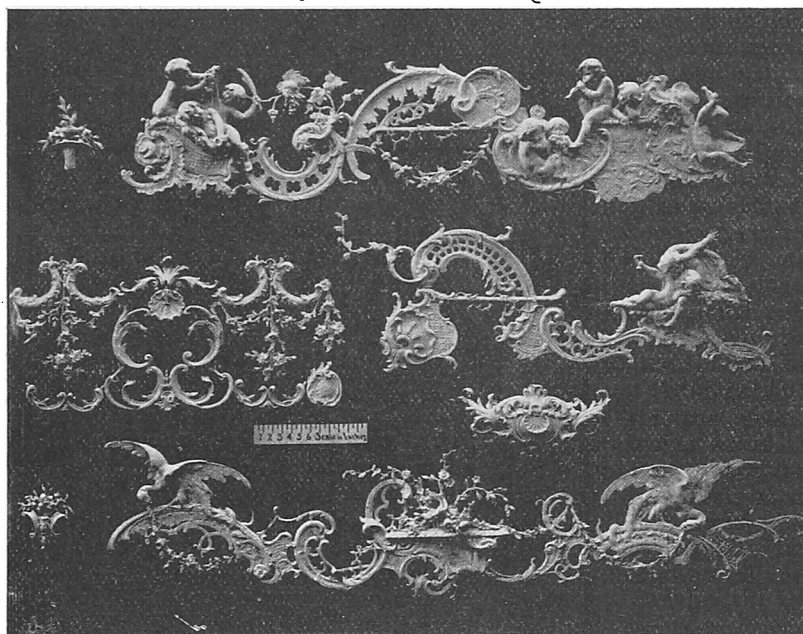
**A** NEW YORK MERCHANT has a house that is crammed from basement to attic with rare and beautiful specimens of Oriental and Greek pottery. Nobody lives in this house, and there is little furniture in it. Among the thousands of objects that the owner has brought together, there is said to be not one second-rate specimen. Case after case stands by the walls, full of marvelous Imari and Satsuma ware, cases of the purest turquoise blue and the renowned "sang de boeuf." There are pieces of hawthorne blue that would

send a china collector crazy with desire; specimens of old crackle, of which no museum in the country has the like.

**A** LARGE find of rare old blue ware, consisting of over 250 pieces, was found in the mud at the bottom of the Delaware River during some dredging operations. It is a mystery how the crockery was lost in the river, as they were found under fifteen feet of mud.

**A** RICH cigar taper comes in red glass overlaid with silver gilt, and is provided with a gilt top richly decorated.

**A** MONG the silver novelties for the table are found flower sets of spoons, enameled in delicate natural shades. The bowl is made to represent a flower, and the handle is formed of the flower's stem and the leaves. The rose, pansy, lily, daisy, and red clover are some of the prettiest designs, and are very attractive when seen upon the saucer of a dainty after-dinner coffee cup.



RELIEF ORNAMENT. MANUFACTURED  
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**T**HE RUSSIAN EMPRESS, CATHERINE II, had a remarkable service of Wedgwood ware made for her palace at St. Petersburg. It took more than three years to manufacture, having been commenced in 1772, and completed in 1775. It had twelve hundred views, many of them sketched for the purpose, of English life and scenery.

## EDITOR'S NOTICE.

**E**WE WOULD CALL THE AMATEUR'S attention to the notice under the Editorial Annotations of the THIRD AMATEUR PRIZE COMPETITION. This should prove a most interesting study in itself, as the subject, AUTUMN, a design to be executed in a manner suitable for reproduction by Pyrography, or burnt-wood work, is capable of great breadth and scope of treatment. A careful reading of the notice will show that the design is not limited, either in the method of treating the subject or the manner of rendering it—providing of course it is done with pen and ink—and these points will be taken into consideration in the awarding of prizes. The first prize is well worthy of effort, as it comprises a complete Pyrographical outfit of the most approved pattern.

**A**N ARTISTIC EFFECT has been produced by India-rubber panels of veneers, which are very beautiful in color, and admit of easy cleaning with soap and water.